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ACTION DRL-09

INFO	LOG-00	INLB-01	AID-00	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	SMEC-00	INL-01
	OASY-00	DODE-00	DOEE-00	SRPP-00	DS-00	EB-00	EUR-01
	FBIE-00	UTED-00	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	LAB-01
	L-01	ADS-00	M-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01
	OPIC-01	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	P-00	CIO-00	SCT-00
	SP-00	STR-00	TRSE-00	USIE-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRM-10
	PRME-01	G-00	/031W				

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P 101547Z JAN 97  
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0691  
INFO AMCONSUL ISTANBUL  
AMCONSUL ADANA  
AMCONSUL STRASBOURG  
ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE

UNCLAS ANKARA 000350

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR DRL AND EUR/SE

E.O. 12958: DECL: N/A  
TAGS: [PHUM](#) [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [TU](#)  
SUBJECT: ERBAKAN'S HUMAN RIGHTS AGENDA

REF: A) ANKARA 306 (NOTAL) B) 96 ANKARA 12736

- C) 96 ANKARA 13404

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1. DURING THE COURSE OF A JANUARY 9 MEETING (REF A), PRIME MINISTER ERBAKAN PRESENTED THE AMBASSADOR WITH THE FOLLOWING LIST OF HUMAN RIGHTS ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND INITIATIVES THAT HIS GOVERNMENT IS WORKING ON:

BEGIN TEXT.

1A. NECESSARY STEPS TO REMOVE TENSIONS IN THE PRISONS HAVE BEEN TAKEN.

1B. IN ORDER TO EXPEDITE CASES BEFORE THE STATE SECURITY COURTS, A DRAFT LAW REORGANIZING THE COURTS WAS PRESENTED TO AND PASSED BY THE PARLIAMENT.

1C. A DRAFT LAW REDUCING PRE-TRIAL DETENTION PERIODS TO (7 PLUS 3 DAYS) IN CASES BEFORE STATE SECURITY COURTS, AND (4 PLUS 3 DAYS) IN OTHER COURTS HAS BEEN CLEARED BY THE RELEVANT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE AND IS NOW ON THE PARLIAMENT'S AGENDA. (NOTE: THE EXTRA 3 DAYS EXTENSION OF PRE-TRIAL DETENTION CAN ONLY BE GRANTED BY A JUDGE.)

1D. THE DECISION TO REMOVE FROM THE JURISDICTION OF STATE SECURITY COURTS THOUGHT CRIMES (NOTE: FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION CRIMES), THAT DO NOT THREATEN THE STATE WAS PASSED BY THE RELEVANT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE AND IS NOW ON THE PARLIAMENT'S AGENDA.

1E. A DRAFT PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE CIVIL SERVANTS TRIAL LAW TO INCLUDE RELIGIOUS OFFICIALS IS ON THE PARLIAMENTARY AGENDA.

1F. AN AGREEMENT-IN-PRINCIPLE FOR TURKISH CITIZENS LIVING ABROAD TO VOTE OVERSEAS HAS BEEN REACHED; THE NECESSARY STEPS TO CHANGE

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THE APPROPRIATE ELECTION LAW HAVE BEEN INITIATED.

1G. EFFORTS HAVE BEGUN ON A LAW TO RESTORE PARENTAL RIGHTS TO  
TURKISH WORKERS IN GERMANY.

1H. A DRAFT LAW WAS SENT TO PARLIAMENT ESTABLISHING A FOREIGN  
AFFAIRS DIRECTORATE GENERAL WITHIN THE JUSTICE MINISTRY, IN ORDER  
TO FOLLOW UP ON COUNCIL OF EUROPE HUMAN RIGHTS CASES AND JUDICIAL  
ASSISTANCE AGREEMENTS.

1I. A DRAFT LAW IS BEING PREPARED FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A  
"JUDICIAL POLICE" FORCE.

1J. A DRAFT LAW FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A HUMAN RIGHTS  
UNDERSECRETARIAT WAS SENT TO PARLIAMENT AND AWAITS SIGNATURE.

ADDITIONALLY, THE FOLLOWING INITIATIVES ARE UNDERWAY:

-- A DECREE LIFTING HUMILIATING RESTRICTIONS ON HEADCOVERING  
AWAITS SIGNATURE.

-- AN AMENDMENT CHANGING THE LAW SO AS TO ALLOW THE MAKING OF THE  
HAJ OVERLAND IS UNDERWAY.

-- A DECREE LIFTING RESTRICTIONS AGAINST GATHERING THE SKINS FROM  
SACRIFICED SHEEP IS UNDERWAY. (NOTE: SINCE ATATURK'S TIME, THE  
SKINS OF SACRIFICED SHEEP ARE COLLECTED AND SOLD BY THE TURKISH  
CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY, WITH THE PROCEEDS BEING USED FOR CIVIL  
AVIATION IMPROVEMENTS. A PORTION OF THE SIZABLE PROCEEDS IS ALSO  
DISTRIBUTED TO ORPHANAGES.)

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END TEXT.

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COMMENT  
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12. MANY OF ERBAKAN'S PROPOSED HUMAN RIGHTS  
AMENDMENTS/INITIATIVES, INCLUDING CHANGES IN PRE-TRIAL DETENTION,  
REORGANIZATION OF THE STATE SECURITY COURTS, CREATION OF A HUMAN  
RIGHTS UNDERSECRETARIAT WITH A NEW MINISTER, AND THE  
DECRIMINALIZATION OF SOME FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION OFFENSES HAD  
ALREADY BEEN ANNOUNCED BY DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER CILLER ON OCTOBER  
17, 1996 (REFS B AND C). SOME OF THE PM'S PROPOSALS, SUCH AS THE ONE  
PERTAINING TO THE USE OF SKIN FROM SACRIFICED SHEEP, AND THE  
FREEDOM TO WEAR HEADGEAR ARE MORE OF INTEREST TO HIS ISLAMIST  
SUPPORTERS. END COMMENT.

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